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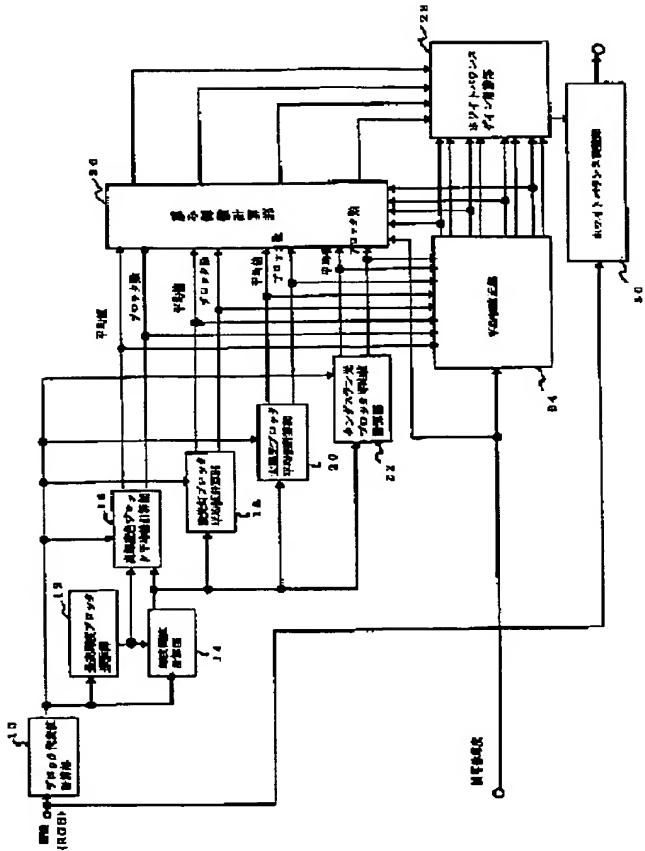
APPLICATION DATE : 11-09-98
APPLICATION NUMBER : 10257723

APPLICANT : EASTMAN KODAK JAPAN LTD;

INVENTOR : MIYANO TOSHIKI;

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TITLE : AUTO-WHITE BALANCE DEVICE



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To realize a more natural color hue in a device for obtaining white balance based on the mean value of pixels in each block of an image.

SOLUTION: A luminance threshold calculation part 14 finds out a luminance threshold based on the mean value of the luminance of all blocks and the luminance of a highest luminance block found out by a maximum luminance block searching part 12. Each of block mean value calculation parts 16 to 22 extracts its corresponding block and finds out the mean value of representative values of the extracted block. Each of these calculation parts 16 to 22 extracts only blocks having luminance higher than the luminance threshold out of all blocks. Then white balance gain is found out based on the respective block mean values found out by respective calculation parts 16 to 22. Since the value of a dark block to which the color of light from a light source may not be sufficiently reflected does not exert influence upon the white balance gain in the constitution, white balance more corresponding to the light source can be realized.

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